

April 2011

ICYD INSIDER

Youth Development News



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Mark your Calendar

June 22nd —ICYD Council Meeting

ICYD council will start meeting quarterly. The next ICYD meeting will take place on June 22th in the Starkweather Room of the Jessie Parker Building from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Questions or comments, please email steve.michael@iowa.gov.

Join SIYAC

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Counsel is accepting applications for 2011– 2012 — [Application](#) . SIYAC members represent youth across the state of Iowa. SIYAC members are expected to communicate with their school, community, and state leaders to address issues and promote positive youth development For more information visit [SIYAC website](#) or contact the Coordinator, Allan Tritch, at 515.725.2836 or allan.tritch@iowa.gov.

Register Today!

On April 26th, 2011, The Risky Business Conference will be bringing adults and youth together to discuss critical issues confronting youth today. Skills workshops will also be held to advance youth development. The Conference is going to be held at Iowa State University in Ames, IA in the Scheman building. Check-ins begins at 8:00 a.m. Registration ends April 22nd. To find out more please [click here](#)

Teen Drug Use on the Rise

A new [national study](#) released this month suggests that youth drug and alcohol abuse is on the rise. The study confirms increases in marijuana and ecstasy use since 2008. Also, underage drinking among adolescents is becoming normalized, with the majority of youth reported having their first drink by age 15. Parents surveyed say they feel unable to respond to the negative shifts in teen drug and alcohol use.

Department of Human Rights Focus on Youth

The Department of Human Rights turns its attention to the next generation of Iowans. Five AmeriCorps members have been carefully selected to fulfill Iowa's State of Promise program. Sara Schoneberg is the youth program coordinator for the Office of Latino Affairs. Schoneberg graduated from Drake University with a degree in Politics and International Studies. She is presently organizing Iowa's Youth Congress committees and working towards the completion of the Trees for Kids project. If you have any suggestions or comments please email:



Sara.Schnoneburg@iowa.gov Look for more about AmeriCorps members in next months edition of the ICYD Insider.

A Note from Our Chair

Starting this Spring, Iowa's Department of Education is embarking on a 4-year Safe and Supportive Schools initiative that will be working with selected high schools from around the state with the purpose to prevent violence and substance abuse in schools. The ICYD Council is proud to be a partner in this effort. The Safe and Supportive Schools project will initially develop a survey that will be completed by the students, parents, and school staff of the participating high schools. The valid and reliable data from the surveys will identify strengths and weaknesses, which will be used for school improvement planning. Technical assistance and training will then be available to guide the communities and schools in the development of a continuous improvement process for conditions for learning in the high schools. With success, it is hoped that this is a learning lab and will be replicated across the state.

Isaiah McGee

SIYAC and Global Youth Service Day

SIYAC is currently conducting Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) projects. The largest annual service event in the world and the only one that specifically celebrates youth. SIYAC youth outreach committee chair, Zach Elsner along with fellow member Jeff Critchlow are serving on the GYSD planning coalition. SIYAC has decided to participate in the Trees for Kids and Teens service project. Friday, April 22nd between 10:30am—3:30pm SIYAC members will be planting trees at Brubaker elementary and Hoyt middle school. They will also promote GYSD in each of their own communities. Please find a local project near you at www.gysd.org .

<http://www.icyd.iowa.gov/>